THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) and (b) Yes. The UK has amended its immigration laws and has launched a five tier Points-Based System (PBS) in 2008 to streamline entry of non EU workers to UK. The tiers have different conditions, entitlements and entry clearance checks. The regulations to not apply retrospectively and their likely impact will be on the new migrants.

(c) and (d) The regulations envisaged in the immigration rules are subject to laws enacted by UK, at the discretion of their Government. In our bilateral talks we have pointed out, that the new system should not pose further hurdles for Indian nationals to enter or stay in the UK.

RPO in Hyderabad

1397. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Regional Passport Office, Hyderabad is not issuing Passports in the prescribed time; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Passport Adalat, which is organized every Wednesday at Hyderabad, is also not responding properly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes. The Government is aware that in recent months the issue of passports in the Regional Passport Office Hyderabad has slowed down, resulting in the accumulation of applications. Concerted efforts are being made to clear this pendency as quickly as possible.

(b) Regional Passport Office Hyderabad organizes a Passport Adalat every week for whose who have not received passports in 60 days. Efforts are made to clear the pending applications and issue passports immediately to those who attend the Adalats.

Pending applications for passports

1398. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending in each Regional Passport Office (RPO) as on date, State-wise;

(b) the steps being taken to clear the pending applications expeditiously;

(c) the number of passport offices in various States inspected during the last three years and the current year;

(d) the details of lapses/irregularities notified therein, RPO-wise;

(e) whether proposals have been received from States for opening of new passport offices; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Two lists containing pending applications Passport Office-wise and State-wise, beyond the target date of 30 days for fresh applications and 15 days for reissue applications, are enclosed as Statement-I and II. (*See* below).

(b) The Government has taken several steps from time to time to streamline the process of issuing passports to the applicants to cut down the delays, including:—

(i) special drives to eliminate pendencies;

(ii) expediting police verification process by coordinating with police authorities;

(iii) renewal of passports without police verification of those applicants who have clear police reports in respect of existing passports and nothing adverse against them in passport records;

(iv) issue of passports to senior citizens, Government servants and minors without police verification subject to completion of certain formalities, and

(v) holding of Passport Adalats/camps at regular intervals by Passport Offices to dispose of old passport cases.

(c) The number of Passport Offices inspected during the last three years and the current year is: 2006 – 38; 2007 – 26; 2008 – 31; and 2009 – 6.

(d) During the inspections of Passport Offices, shortcomings falling in the following major categories have been noticed in same cases and in some offices:—

i. not conducting proper scrutiny of applications at the time of receipt of the same;

ii. not making special arrangements for Tatkal cases;

iii. delays in dispatch of personal particular forms to Police authorities;

iv. instances of delays in the granting and issue of passports after receipt of clear Police Verification Reports;

v. wrong 'Emigration Clearance Required' endorsements;

vi. delays in dispatch of passports.

vii. absence of prompt redressal of grievances of passport seeking public; and

viii. absence of requisite amenities for passport applicants.

(e) and (f) No proposal for opening new Passport Offices has been received from the States. However, the Government is committed to improving the Passport Issuance System as a whole, and has accordingly started implementing the Passport Seva Project under which 77 Passport Seva Kendras are to be established throughout the country with the objective to deliver passport-related services to the citizens in a timely, transparent, more accessible and reliable manner.

Statement-I

Details of number of pending applications Passport Office-wise
as on 8.7.2009

Sl. No.	Passport Office	No. of applications pending
1	2	3
01.	Ahmedabad	2638
02.	Amritsar	14317
03.	Bangalore	23091
04.	Bareilly	19136
05.	Bhopal	23223
06.	Bhubaneshwar	14699
07.	Chandigarh	38066
08.	Chennai	44584
09.	Cochin	12888
10.	Coimbatore	11263
11.	Delhi	59759
12.	Dehradun	3578
13.	Ghaziabad	4005
14.	Guwahati	13042
15.	Hyderabad	69516
16.	Jaipur	54087
17.	Jalandhar	6623
18.	Jammu	9647
19.	Kolkata	54297
20.	Kozhikode	10141
21.	Lucknow	18768
22.	Maduri	7475
23.	Malappuram	9489
24.	Mumbai	3830
25.	Nagpur	3113

1	2	3
26.	Panaj	1367
27.	Patna	90158
28.	Pune	12894
29.	Raipur	13221
30.	Ranchi	15479
31.	Srinagar	24603
32.	Shimla	1758
33.	Surat	5001
34.	Thane	7789
35.	Thiruchirapalli	7788
36.	Thiruvananthapuram	7734
37.	Visakhapatnam	531
38.	Spl. Secy (Passport), Andaman Nicobar, Port Blair	403

Statement-II

State-wise list of passport applications pending as on 8.7.2009

Sl. No.	States/UT	No. of passport applications pending
1	2	3
01.	Andhra Pradesh	69516
02.	Arunachal Pradesh	328
03.	Assam	13042
04.	Bihar	90158
05.	Chhattisgarh	13221
06.	Goa	1367
07.	Gujarat	7639
08.	Haryana	22766
09.	Himachal Pradesh	1758
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	34250

1	2	3
11.	Jharkhand	15479
12.	Karnataka	23091
13.	Kerala	40252
14.	Madhya Pradesh	23223
15.	Maharashtra	27567
16.	Manipur	983
17.	Meghalaya	339
18.	Mizoram	40
19.	Nagaland	332
20.	Orissa	14699
21.	Punjab	48238
22.	Rajasthan	54087
23.	Sikkim	81
24.	Tamil Nadu	69220
25.	Tripura	250
26.	Uttarakhand	3578
27.	Uttar Pradesh	41909
28.	West Bengal	54297
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	403
30.	Chandigarh	2275
31.	Daman and Diu	41
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	18
33.	Delhi	45486
34.	Lakshadweep	243
35.	Puducherry	1890

Task force on crime against International students

1399. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Australian Prime Minister has established a Task Force on crime against International students under leadership of National Security Adviser;